

City, military observe 1,080 years of birthdays

Story and photos by Ignacio
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U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public
Affairs Office

Two birthdays totaling 1,080 years of existence were celebrated in Baumholder July 2.

The city of Baumholder and the U.S. military community joined forces July 2 to celebrate the 850th birthday of the city and the 230 birthday of the United States, better known as the 4th of July.

Although the event was a scaled down version of the traditional Baumholder Days held annually in June, there were enough activities to occupy party goers throughout the afternoon and into the night. Visitor passes for German visitors numbered 448 and 220 German visitors took advantage of the shuttle bus service from down town to the festival grounds on Smith Barracks. "It was a great event with a good turnout," said Lt. Col. James E. Larsen, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder commander.

Entertainment included the Orlando Magic Cheerleaders, historic patriotic film festival, Billy Lane Choppers Inc. display, Thom Shepard and the Nashville Song Writers and the United States Army Europe chorus. The party came to a close with a traditional 4th of July fireworks display.

Peter Lang, Baumholder city mayor, joined Larsen at a keg tapping ceremony that officially kicked off a series of activities culminating well after 11 p.m. with a fireworks display. The fact that



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A young visitor at the festival takes her turn in the driver's seat of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle on display July 2 during the joint German/American celebration.

this was Larsen's last time officiating at a community event did not go unnoticed by Lang and the numerous city dignitaries who attended the celebration. Larsen departs Baumholder in mid July for his new duty station. As a way of thanking

him for all he has done to bring both communities closer, both professionally and socially, Lang presented Larsen with a coin commemorating the city's 850th birthday.

Larsen thanked everyone and wished

the community continued success.

Seeking shelter from temperatures that hovered in the 80s, everyone retreated to festival tents and continued celebrating as the day's entertainment began under clear blue skies.



Peter Lang, Baumholder city mayor, left, and Lt. Col. James E. Larsen, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder commander, tap beer mugs for dignitaries during the festival opening ceremony.



The Orlando Magic cheerleaders lead a cheerleading clinic in the Hall of Champions.



Visitors to the festival take shelter under tents on the festival grounds.

Wetzel care givers earn CDA credentials

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

U.S. Army Garrison
Baumholder Public Affairs
Office

Child care, at best, challenges your patience and Tamara Smith and Yolanda Orr, employees at the Wetzel Child Development Center, recently proved they have what it takes to care for children by earning their Child Development Associate Credentials.

"Yolanda Orr and Tami Smith have worked long and hard to obtain this professional certification. These care givers are now Child Development Associates. With this new title they will be able to demonstrate their competence and their ability to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development setting. The proof of this competence is the CDA credential," said Rick Ruiz, director, Wetzel Child Development Center.

Smith explained what CDA accreditation means by saying that a CDA puts a care giver in a leading roll, which includes lesson planning for the room the care giver is responsible for. "You're going to plan for your room. You're also going to help oversee all the care givers. You're going to train all the care givers because you have a little bit more knowledge," said Smith.

Smith and Orr dedicated more than 18 months each to achieve their accreditation but in spite of their strong commitment Orr explains that child care is not for everybody. "You have to have patience and you have to be very sensitive to the children because sometimes they get...roudy? And you have to deal with it and have patience for that," said Orr.

"Every body doesn't have nerve or patience for children all day, every day. But for people like myself, I'm thinking it's a very good thing to have because when you go out in the world you're able to deal with other things outside of here," said Orr.

After 18 months of plowing through training modules, Smith, who is now a lead care



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Yolanda Orr and Tamara Smith have their hands full at the Wetzel Child Development Center in the infant room. Orr and Smith recently received their Child Development Associate credentials.

giver for the infant room, is relieved that her training is finally over.

"You start your modules as soon as you start your job and then you just keep going. When I first started my modules they were basically paper copies with information and questions. Now they've changed over, they're in a book and on a CD for the computer.

I'm so happy that I finally got it (CDA). I'm glad it's over because it was a long process. It's a very long process but it's very much worth it," said Smith.

The long hours she dedicated to earning her CDA is just the beginning for Smith. She's hoping to go back to school but she's waiting for her husband to return from Kuwait. "We're deciding if we're going to PCS or stay in Germany. If we're staying here I'm going to go to school and get my bachelors and maybe work my way up to

teacher and actually work for a school district."

Her advice to anyone contemplating becoming a child care provider is to take your time and enjoy it. "If you don't enjoy it you're not going to want to progress. I think it's an enjoyable experience and once you get the hang of it, find your right age group that you enjoy working with, you'll really love it and you'll just want to stay with it.

It's not something I ever thought I would do until we got here and now I can't imagine not doing it," said Smith.

Before turning to child care, Smith's career had nothing to do with children. It wasn't until she came to Germany that she was introduced to child care. "I worked in a motor pool as a production controller for a contractor before I got here. When I came here my children went to the day care center and I real-

ized how much fun the care givers were having. It was my first day in Germany and I met a lady named Gina who was working at the dispensary CDC. She was watching my children and she was so happy, so smiling, my kids just loved her and I was like, you know, I can do that. I'm going to try and see if I can do that, and so I got the job. I got the job three weeks after we got here. It's a big difference from working in a motor pool to working with babies,"

"I worked in an insurance company for five years back in the states," explains Orr. She was at odds about what to do when she arrived in Germany until someone introduced her to being a home child care provider. "Back in 1996 my husband got deployed a month after we got here and a friend told me about child care. I could do child care in my home, so that's when I began. When I started doing it I enjoyed it so I just continued in it and I found out I was good at this so I just stayed," said Orr.

Orr believes that if you can

deal with children you can deal with anything. "If you can deal with children all day long without pulling all your hair out, you'll be able to apply it in every other area of your life. So that's where it's helped me out," said Orr.

Although Orr has found her niche in child care she warns that it's not for everybody. "If it's not something that's for you don't feel bad because it's not for everybody. I've seen people come just a couple of days and be like, uh uh I can't. People don't realize what we do is very stressful at times and you have to be able to deal with things that come up. It's not just the children, sometimes you have to deal with the parents also and it can be very stressful if you can't control it," said Orr.

But if you are able to stay and enjoy it, it's fun at times, You have fun with the kids.

Joe Satellite



Photo by Guenter Merschner

A German officer is chauffeured through the back roads of Baumholder followed by soldiers in a transport vehicle. The group is part of historical enthusiasts who recently conducted a World War II reenactment on Baumholder.

Phantom Regiment rolls into action

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

U.S. Army Garrison
Baumholder Public Affairs

As Germans and Americans celebrated Baumholder's birthday and the Fourth of July in front of the Hall of Champions, a barrage of artillery shells were pummeling a nearby village, pinning down the defenders as an advancing force effectively overran the town. The defenders of the village quickly became "history."

And history is what the Phantom Regiment is all about. The regiment staged this reen-

actment of a World War II scrimmage for the numerous spectators during the German/American celebration July 2.

The ranks of the regiment include Soldiers who dedicate their free time to keeping history alive by maintaining, restoring and displaying World War II vehicles, uniforms and other memorabilia.

Although most of the regiment members are currently deployed, the regiment continues to sponsor historical events.

The Phantom Regiment began setting up camp July 1 at

MP Field. They were joined by clubs from Germany, France, the Netherlands, Hungary and the Czech Republic who also collect and maintain war memorabilia.

Some of their vehicles and equipment were on display at the festival grounds July 2.

The World War II reenactment took place in "Mountain Village," Baumholder's Military Operations Urban Terrain training facility.

There was no scenario for the engagement. Sgt. 1st Class Kevin DeVoss, logistics coordinator for the Phantom Regi-

ment, left everything up to the participants.

"I provided an opposing force for them in the town to engage and maneuver against and allowed them to use their imagination and tactics to maneuver around them and engage," said DeVoss.

"This is one of the first times we've had an event of this magnitude on a U.S. Army base. Everything went off without a hitch and everybody had a great time.

"I've had some marvelous feedback from people saying that they had a wonderful time

here," said DeVoss.

The Phantom Regiment helps answer questions that people may have and helps them understand a little bit more of what their ancestors went through. "It's an opportunity for people to actually touch some of their history," said DeVoss.

"I'm very pleased by the cooperation and support of various agencies here in Baumholder that provided some level of assistance to pull this off. I couldn't have done it without that. It would have been impossible," said DeVoss.

Personal claims

Anyone having claims against the estate of Pfc. Ryan J. Clark who died June 19 may contact 1st. Lt. Ruben Toledo at mil 485-6500.

Anyone having claims against the estates of Spc. Robert E. Blair or Pfc. Brett L. Tribble who died June 2 may contact 1st. Lt. Ruben Toledo at mil 485-6500.

Anyone having claims against the estate of Pvt. David M. Crombie may contact Warrant Officer 1 Dorian Bozza at mil 485-7593.

Persons who may have claims against the estate of 1st. Lt. Scott Love may contact Capt. George Brooks III at mil 485-9784.

Vet clinic open evenings

The veterinary clinic will be holding

evening clinic on a walk in basis July 25 from 5 – 7:30 p.m. for vaccinations and health certificates only. The veterinary clinic is located behind the health clinic in Building 8758.

Youth sports needs help

Baumholder's Child and Youth Services is looking for volunteers interested in conducting and assisting with summer youth sports clinics to include: basketball, soccer, football and cheerleading.

Interested persons may contact mil 485-7276 or stop by the Youth Sports Office located in the second floor of Building 8743.

News briefs

Customs hours

The Baumholder Customs Office is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The office is located in Building 8724 and is closed on all U.S. federal holidays and German holidays.

High, middle school summer schedule

Baumholder American High School and Middle School has announced its summer schedule and hours of operation.

Office hours are 8 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The main office may be reached at mil 485-

7590.

A new student orientation and cook-out is scheduled for Aug. 25.

The orientation will be in the gymnasium at 1:30 p.m. with a guided tour to follow.

Student schedule pickup is Aug. 25. Schedule pickup for seventh grade students is from 1-1:30 at the gymnasium. Schedule pickup for eighth through 12th grade students is from 1-2 p.m. at the multipurpose room/cafeteria.

Bus passes for school year 2006/2007 can be picked up in Room 14 starting Aug. 21 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call mil 485-6874.

Student athletes must have at least a 2.0 GPA from the third quarter and no more than one failing grade to be eligible to participate. Students must also have a sports physical on file prior to practice.

Rolling Hills Athletic Club and Pool

The Rolling Hills Athletic Club is located in upper Wetzel and includes an indoor pool and fitness center. It is open from noon to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. There are daily, monthly, and quarterly membership rates available for individuals or families. Call the RHAC for more information on pricing, at civ (06783) 6-6156 or mil 485-6156.

Family swim night is offered every Friday from 5 - 8 p.m. at \$1 per person.

Martial arts

The Art of Stick Fighting will be offered for adults 18 years and older at the Rolling Hills Athletic Club beginning Aug. 1. The 12 week course will be held every Tuesday and Thursday at the RHAC from 6:30-8 p.m. and the final class is Oct. 19. The cost is \$160 for all sessions. Registration runs through July 27. Call the RHAC at civ (06783) 6-6156 or mil 485-6156 to register.

Self defense

A Women's self defense course for persons 18 years and older begins Aug. 7. The 12-week course focuses on building confidence and self esteem. Class begins Aug. 7 and will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the RHAC from 6:45-7:45 p.m. The final class will be Oct. 25. The cost is \$130 for all sessions. Registration runs through Aug. 3, call the RHAC at civ (06783) 6-6156 or mil 485-6156 to register.

Personal training

Personal training classes are now offered at the RHAC on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. One hour for club member costs \$20. Non-club members pay \$35 for a one hour session. A personal training package is available for \$95 and includes one-month individual membership to Rolling Hills Athletic Club and four personal training sessions. For information call mil 485-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6156.

Fitness classes

The following fitness classes are offered at the RHAC:

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Spinning, 5:30 p.m. Tickets for

Happenings



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Victory feast for the garrison family

Iris Eifler loads up on meatballs and above right, U.S. Army Garrison members enjoy an Italian feast. After winning the World Cup, Italians 'round the world went into a celebration frenzy. Bianca Maria Di Tullio, known to all in the U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder as Bianca Bowen, shared her jubilation by throwing a Victory Feast for the garrison family featuring an Italian menu "a' la Di Tullio." The menu featured Panini con le Polpette (Italian meatball sandwiches), Lasagna, Melanzane a l' Abruzzese (Eggplant a l' Abruzzese), Tiramisu (pick me up), and Bruschetta consisting of garlic bread, chopped tomatoes and basil leaves.

Spinning classes cost \$4 each or 10 for \$30. Tickets may be purchased at Rolling Hills Athletic Club or Mountaineer Gym.

- For July, Yoga, Tuesdays and Thursday, 11:45 a.m. Yoga classes are free for July.

Wellness massage

Relax with a certified masseuse at the RHAC for \$40 for 60 minutes. Call mil 485-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6156 for appointments. Ask about the new mommy-to-be massage.

Mountaineer

The Mountaineer Fitness Center is open Mondays through Fridays, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Holidays, Saturdays, Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and may be reached at civ (06783) 6-7418 or mil 485-7418

The following programs are offered at the Mountaineer Fitness center, Building 8220:

Aerobics

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Step, 9 a.m.

Tickets for aerobics classes cost \$4 each or 10 for \$30. Tick-

ets may be purchased at Rolling Hills Athletic Club or Mountaineer Gym.

Softball schedule

The following softball games are scheduled for July and August:

July 22, Baumholder vs. Schinnen (host)

July 29, IS field II, Baumholder vs. Mannheim, 11 a.m.

Aug 12, Baumholder vs. Shape (host)

Hall of Champions

The Hall of Champions is open Mondays through Fridays, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information call civ (06783) 6-7176/366-615 or mil 485-7176.

Arts and Crafts

Keepsake Arts and Crafts is located in Building, 8895 in Wetzel housing inside Rolling Hills Athletic Club building. The center is open Tuesdays through Fridays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m.; Sun-

days, Mondays, closed. For more information call civ (06783) 6-6687 or mil 485-6687.

The center offers the following programs:

Framing, engraving

Check out the new framing items available and larger inventory for all your unit's needs.

Instructional classes

Stained glass, quilting, sewing, knitting, bead making, cake decorating, scrapbook, watercolor may be available. Instructors are also needed. Please call mil 485-6687 for details.

Photo Studio

The studio is open Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Photos sessions are available by appointment. A \$10 sitting fee will be charged.

Photo packages are available including Baby's First Year package.

For an appointment call mil 485-6687 or contact Tiffany Goodrow at civ (06783) 185-6041. Photos are taken by appoint-

ment with a \$10 sitting fee.



Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation is located in Building 8167 and may be reached at civ (06783) 6-7182 or mil 485-7182.

The Pro Shop is open Mondays through Sundays and holidays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Paintball Field is open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rental guns are \$15 per set. \$9 for field fee using your marker.

Recreation trips

Outdoor Recreation offers the following trips and activities in July:

July 21-23, Austria Express, Sound of Music

July 22, fishing trip

July 29, wine fest, Traben Trarbach-Mosel Valley

July 30, kayak and canoe, Sauer River

Party on

Are you looking for a place to host a party or other unit function? Baumholder Outdoor Recreation has the solution. Ask about their party room rental with prices starting at \$25.

Trap, skeet range

The trap and skeet range is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rental guns are available and range prices start at \$4.50 for 25 birds.

Get your German hunting license

Getting your hunting license in Germany may be easier and less expensive than you think. Classes cost \$75 per person. Call Outdoor Recreation at civ (06783) 6-7182 or mil 485-7182 for registration information.

Rock climbing wall

Mountaineer Fitness Center offers adult rock climbing classes for \$10 without certification or \$15 with certification. Daily usage fees are \$5 without certification or equipment. Children's classes cost \$6 for youths up to 17 years. A monthly pass costs \$30 for adults and \$15 for children.